

Mr. Speaker, every country in the world knows that America is the strongest nation in the world, particularly when it comes to defense. We have billions of dollars in weapons to prove it, but sometimes situations call for more than just brute strength.

Let us not look back in another 4 years and wish we had done things differently. It is time America got smart about its national security.

I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this vitally important resolution, H. Con. Res. 392. Let us be smart about our future. SMART security is tough, pragmatic and patriotic, and it will keep America safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE TO ACCOUNT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this is the administration that lays claim to security. They have got it under control. They have got it covered. They know, so Americans should trust them and reward them with another 4 years.

Well, it sure does not look that way. It took an independent, bipartisan panel to uncover 3 years later the fact that many of the 9/11 terrorists had crossed Iran's border with the knowledge and approval of the Iranian Government.

Why did the administration not know this? They made claims about their leadership in the war on terror. The administration's word rings hollow in the light of the 9/11 Commission's revelations.

When it comes to the war on terror, this revelation demonstrates this administration does not know what it does not know, but they claim to be

the leaders and they claim it now. Clearly, they do not. Three years after 9/11 occurred there is no excuse for them having to find out from the 9/11 Commission.

The 9/11 Commission, with nothing close to the resources the administration has at its disposal, was able to uncover that many of the hijackers passed through Iran. Why did the administration not know this?

What else do they not know? Why have 3 years gone by without an investigation into Iran? Why is that? What does this revelation mean about Iran? We do not know and neither does this administration.

How could this happen? Very simply. The administration's obsession with Iraq. It is that simple. The administration diverted attention, resources and global support away from Afghanistan and the hunt for Osama bin Laden. This administration launched a war in Iraq on thinner evidence than what has been discovered about Iran and al Qaeda.

The President talked tough today. Is he signaling the start of another pre-war campaign? That was the pattern in Iraq. Start the rhetoric out in the open and plan behind the closed doors.

Is that what is going on here? Considering the overwhelming U.S. military commitment in Iraq, the truth is, the United States has limited, if any, real ability to launch another significant military action while 160,000 troops remain in Iraq.

What does that mean? It means we are overextended for one thing. It means that diversion into Iraq diverted the war on terror. It means the President's decision to invade Iraq deprived us of the right to investigate Iran. We have lost invaluable time, measured in years, when this administration beat a drum beat that turned war rhetoric with Iraq into reality.

The 9/11 Commission has given us a glimpse of what we do not know. The rhetoric only goes so far. In the aftermath of the truth about Iraq, the administration's rhetoric is long on words but very short on credibility. That is not leading a war on terror.

Today, America strains under the weight and the consequences of a misguided war that substituted rhetoric for evidence. Today, America sees firsthand the consequences of a war that diverted us away from the real fight we have. Today, America is beginning to see what was overlooked, left behind or simply ignored in the administration's rush to judgment against Iraq.

Three years later, the consequences of the administration policy makes clear the real intelligence failure began not in the CIA but in the White House. Intelligence failure was not in the agencies. It was at the top, from the people who directed them. It should never have happened, and this administration will have to account with the America people in 105 days.

We cannot afford an administration that wastes 3 years on the investiga-

tion of a country with nuclear power and other issues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.